



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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Office of the Director

February 21, 1980

RL:0376A

Representative Charles Toguchi
Chairman, House Committee on Ocean and Marine Resource
and
Representative Charles Ushijima
Chairman, House Committee on Higher Education
House of Representative
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representatives Toguchi and Ushijima:

HB 2575

HB 2575, a bill which your committees is considering in a public hearing today, would provide an appropriation for environmental studies relating to a manganese nodule processing industry. Research on the industry itself would be supported under HB 2728, a bill also being considered.

HB 2575 appears to be a companion to SB 2601, a bill for which we prepared a statement for a public hearing of the Senate Committee on Ecology, Environment and Recreation on 20 February. For the use of your committee in connection with its consideration of HB 2575, we are providing you with copies of that statement (RL:0376).

Yours very truly,

Doak C. Cox
Director

DCC/ck

Enclosure



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RL:0376

SB 2601
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES RELATING TO
MANGANESE NODULE PROCESSING

Statement for
Senate Committee on
Ecology, Environment, and Recreation
Public Hearing - 20 February 1980

By
Doak C. Cox, Environmental Center

SB 2601 would make an appropriation for environmental studies relating to a manganese nodule processing industry. This statement on the bill does not represent an institutional position of the University.

It appears that there is a considerable potential for the establishment of a manganese nodule processing industry in Hawaii. The location of such an industry, the nature of the tailings and other wastes of the industry, the means and sites for disposal of the wastes, and the environmental impacts of the disposal are at present unknown. The nature, means and sites, and environmental impacts of the waste disposal should be ascertained before approvals are given to the establishment of the industry. In order to minimize delays in the approval process, it is highly desirable that the State determine as well as possible these environmental factors before formal application for approval is made. The appropriation proposed in SB 2601 would encourage the Department of Planning and Economic Development to continue and expand their investigation of these environmental factors and provide support for the expansion.